

Application No.: 09/881,275  
Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A program for displaying, on a display apparatus, a moving image of a plurality of characters which move in a virtual space, said program causing an information processing apparatus to execute:

a mode determination process for determining whether each character should operate as an individual or as a crowd;

a virtual object creation process for specifying a group of characters which form the crowd and creating a virtual object which gives movement information about movement to the group of characters when it is determined that each character should operate as part of a crowd; and

a crowd movement process for causing the group of characters to move on the basis of said movement information;

wherein said movement information contains information about a character assignment position in a virtual space and information about the destination direction of the virtual object;

~~A program according to claim 5, wherein the character assignment position in said virtual space is a position in one circle or in a plurality of concentric circles, around a reference point determined based on the positions of the group of characters which form a crowd, and the characters in the same circle are evenly spaced apart.~~

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): A computer readable medium storing a program for displaying, on a display apparatus, a moving image

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of a plurality of characters which move in a virtual space, said program causing an information processing apparatus to execute:

- a mode determination process for determining whether each character should operate as an individual or as a crowd;

- a virtual object creation process for specifying a group of characters which form the crowd and creating a virtual object which gives movement information about movement to the group of characters when it is determined that each character should operate as part of a crowd; and

- a crowd movement process for causing the group of characters to move on the basis of said movement information;

- wherein said movement information contains information about a character assignment position in a virtual space and information about the destination direction of the virtual object;

- wherein the character assignment position in said virtual space is a position in one circle or in a plurality of concentric circles, around a reference point determined based on the positions of the group of characters which form a crowd, and the characters in the same circle are evenly spaced apart.

Claim 11 (New): An information processing device for displaying, on a display apparatus, a moving image of a plurality of characters which move in a virtual space, said information processing device comprising:

- a mode determination means for determining whether each character should operate as an individual or as a crowd;

- a virtual object creation means for specifying a group of characters which form the crowd and creating a virtual object which gives movement information about movement to the group

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of characters when it is determined that each character should operate as part of a crowd; and

a crowd movement means for causing the group of characters to move on the basis of said movement information;

wherein said movement information contains information about a character assignment position in a virtual space and information about the destination direction of the virtual object;

wherein the character assignment position in said virtual space is a position in one circle or in a plurality of concentric circles, around a reference point determined based on the positions of the group of characters which form a crowd, and the characters in the same circle are evenly spaced apart.

Claim 12 (New): A method of displaying, on a display apparatus, a moving image of a plurality of characters which move in a virtual space, said method for execution by an information processing apparatus and comprising the steps of:

determining whether each character should operate as an individual or as a crowd;

specifying a group of characters which form the crowd and creating a virtual object which gives movement information about movement to the group of characters when it is determined that each character should operate as part of a crowd; and

causing the group of characters to move on the basis of said movement information;

wherein said movement information contains information about a character assignment position in a virtual space and information about the destination direction of the virtual object;

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wherein the character assignment position in said virtual space is a position in one circle or in a plurality of concentric circles, around a reference point determined based on the positions of the group of characters which form a crowd, and the characters in the same circle are evenly spaced apart.